

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7413
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AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, JA, VN
SUBJECT: REFUGEE VIETNAMESE DEPUTIES' PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: TOKYO 6329

1. SRV NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY NGUYEN CONG HOAN AND FORMER RVN DEPUTIES TRAN VAN THUNG AND TRAN VAN SON, BOAT CASE REFUGEES IN JAPAN, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AS THREATENED SATURDAY APRIL 30. ONLY VERNACULAR MAINICHI AND YOMIURI AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE JAPAN TIMES APPEAR TO HAVE REPORTED IT.

2. ACCORDING TO JAPAN TIMES, HOAN TOLD PRESS THAT HE WAS ONLY MEMBER OF RVN PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION ALLOWED TO STAND FOR SRV ASSEMBLY, FROM PHU KHANH (EX-PHU YEN AND KHANH HOA PROVINCES) DISTRICT. HIS HOPES FOR COMMUNIST-LED NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WERE DASHED DURING YEAR IN OFFICE, DURING WHICH IT BECAME APPARENT THAT FIVE PERCENT NON-COMMUNIST MINORITY IN SRV ASSEMBLY
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STRICTLY CONTROLLED, AND EVEN DENIED OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH PRESS. VIETNAMESE HAD HOPED FOR PEACE, HE SUMMARIZED, AND LOST FREEDOM; THEY WOULD WELCOME ANOTHER WAR TO SWEEP AWAY COMMUNISTS.

3. SON, WHO LIKE COLLEAGUES WAS CENTRAL VIETNAMESE, AN QUANG BUDDHIST-SUPPORTED OPPOSITIONIST, TOLD REPORTERS

THAT HE WAS REQUIRED TO DO FORCED LABOR DURING SUMMER OF 1975, THEN INDOCTRINATED FOR TWO MONTHS AND RELEASED IN NOVEMBER, 1975.

4. IN PREPARED STATEMENT, GROUP REPORTEDLY CLAIMED HANOI REGIME EXECUTED AT LEAST 500 GVN OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS IN PHU YEN AFTER VICTORY. THEY ESTIMATED PRESENT POLITICAL PRISON POPULATION AT OVER 200,000. ASKED ABOUT FATE OF LEADING OPPOSITIONISTS, GROUP SAID HOME OF GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH IS UNDER STRICT SURVEILLANCE AND THAT TRAN VAN TUYEN AND VU HONG KHANH ARE AMONG THE MISSING.

5. DEPDIR HOGEN OF FONOFF 1ST SOUTHEAST ASIA BUREAU TOLD US THAT ONLY VIETNAMESE REACTION SO FAR HAD BEEN INFORMAL PROTEST BY TOKYO EMBASSY THIRD SECRETARY.

6. OVER WEEKEND, ANOTHER TWENTY-SEVEN REFUGEES ARRIVED IN JAPAN, REPORTEDLY AFTER NAVIGATING FROM VIETNAM TO OKINAWA AREA IN FISHING BOAT. UNLIKE PREDECESSORS PICKED UP AT SEA BY JAPANESE VESSELS, THIS GROUP IS TECHNICALLY CLASSED AS "ILLEGAL ENTRANTS", BUT ACCORDING TO HOGEN WILL BE ACCORDED IDENTICAL HOSPITALITY BY GOJ.
SHOESMITH

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Sent Date: 02-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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